# THE SENTIMENTS OF AN ENGLISHMAN, &c.

(Price One Shilling)

# THE SENTIMENTS OF AN ENGLISHMAN, ON Lord GEORGE SACKVILLE's ADDRESS to the PUBLIC, Some other PUBLICATIONS, AND On the TALK of the TOWN.

*LONDON:*
Printed for M. COOPER, at the *Globe* in *Pater-noſter Row.*

# THE SENTIMENTS OF AN ENGLISHMAN, &c.

UPON the arrival of the news of the glorious victory gained by the allied army over that of *France* at *Thornhauſen*; there was immediately ſpread a rumour, that lord *George Sackville*, commander in chief of the *Britiſh* forces had not done his duty: and, as is uſual on ſuch occaſions, a thouſand reports took wing, as it were, all at once; ſome reaſonable enough, from their moderation to be credited, others that appeared incredible from their very natures, to thoſe who knew or had heard the character of the party, and not a few that were entirely contradictory of one another.

The people, according to cuſtom, appearing ready to believe the worſt that could be told them, had their indignation inflamed to an enormous degree, by the faſcinating inſinuations of the induſtrious incendiaries of private enmity, party pique, rival pretenſions to preferment, and perhaps miniſterial policy: to which may be added the great zeal of *Grubſtreet* authors and publiſhers, not to procure national juſtice, but to get a dinner.

In the mean time, the candid and ſenſible, the true champions of juſtice and real friends to their country, ſat ſilent amidſt the torrents of calumny and ſcurrility that they ſaw it was in vain to oppoſe, and waited for information from the publications that they ſuppoſed would be made by AUTHORITY.

None ſuch have appeared: conſequently there has yet been no authentic accuſation of crimes for which the mob of all orders (there being thoſe of all orders who muſt be included in it) proceeded to the pronouncing of ſentence without trial; and ſhewed themſelves ready even for the undertaking of execution.

Numberleſs were the new lies and ſilly opinions that every day produced. One was, that orders

orders had been ſent for ſuperſeding Lord *George Sackville*'s commiſſion, and the bringing of him home a priſoner. Then, powers were ſaid to be gone for the trying of him in *Germany*: then, again, his majeſty, out of regard to his noble father and family, would permit him to retire unpuniſhed. Mean time, various were the reports of his being arrived in ſecret, long before he came over; though many deliver'd it occaſionally as their opinion, that he never could have the face to appear again in his native country.

During all which time, a great number of impudent ſlanders were ſpread about to blacken his private character, and conſequences deduced from them as falſe in their natures as they were malicious in their intention. Yet thoſe who were the inſtigators of them were well apprized of their effects: they knew private abuſes will produce public hatred; and that what the vulgar are inſpired to deteſt they will become deſirous to deſtroy. This is an old game of policy; which the crafty underſtand, and the weak are deluded by: and it is ſure to be played, with more or leſs ſucceſs, as often as it is thought convenient for juſtice to be overborne for ſtate ſervice.

At length he arrived: and almoſt the firſt certain intelligence of his being come, was an advertizement for the publication of a ſhort addreſs of his, by name, to the public.

He reached *London* on the *Friday* night, advertiſed his publication in the following *Monday* morning's papers, and on *Tueſday* at noon it came out.

In this addreſs, which is extremely decent, he ſays, " *the various reports that have* " *been propagated to my diſadvantage, and the* " *many falſehoods which have been aſſerted to* " *ruin my character, lay me under the neceſ-* " *ſity of not remaining entirely ſilent, though I* " *am debarred at preſent from ſtating my caſe* " *to the public, as I ſhould have done, had I* " *not had aſſurances of obtaining a court-mar-* " *tial for my trial, the only legal and effectual* " *method of convincing the world how little* " *foundation there has been for the torrent of* " *calumny and abuſe, which have been ſo ma-* " *liciouſly thrown out againſt me.*"

His Lordſhip ſoon after informs the public, that on the very evening of his arrival in town he wrote the following letter to the ſecretary of ſtate.

My

" My Lord,

" I have the honour of acquainting your " Lordſhip with my Arrival in *England*, in " purſuance of his Majeſty's permiſſion, " ſeat to me, at my requeſt, by your Lord- " ſhip.

" I thought myſelf much injured abroad " by an implyed cenſure on my conduct; I " find I am ſtill more unfortunate at home, " by being publickly repreſented as having " neglected my duty in the ſtrongeſt man- " ner, by diſobeying the poſitive orders of " his Serene Highneſs Prince *Ferdinand:* " as I am conſcious of neither neglect, nor " diſobedience of orders; as I am certain I " did my duty to the utmoſt of my abilities; " and as I am perſuaded that the Prince " himſelf would have found, that he had no " juſt cauſe of complaint againſt me, had " he condeſcended to have inquired into my " conduct, before he had expreſſed his diſ- " approbation of it, from the partial repre- " ſentation of others: I therefore moſt hum- " bly requeſt that I may at laſt have a public " opportunity given me of attempting to " juſtify myſelf to his Majeſty, and to my " country, by a court-martial being ap- " pointed; that if I am guilty, I may ſuffer

" ſuch

" ſuch puniſhment as I may have deſerved;
" and if innocent, that I may ſtand ac-
" quitted in the opinion of the world: but
" it is really too ſevere to have been cenſured
" unheard, to have been condemned before
" I was tryed, and to be informed neither of
" my crime, nor my accuſers.

" I am,

" My Lord, &c. &c. &c.

" Signed,

GEORGE SACKVILLE."

His Lordſhip then acquaints the public that he received an anſwer to his letter on the following *Monday*, in which he was aſſured, that a court-martial upon his application would be granted, as ſoon as the officers capable of giving evidence could leave their poſts; but previouſly to the receipt of that letter, adds his Lordſhip, " *I was diſmiſſed*
" *from all my military employments: nowith-*
" *ſtanding which diſmiſſion, I ſtill hope, and*
" *am informed, that I may have the advantage*
" *of a legal tryal.*"

His Lordſhip then proceeds to the concluſion of his addreſs, which he makes in the following ſignificant words.

" *In the mean time, the only indulgence I* " *have to aſk is, that the public will ſuſpend its* " *judgment till ſuch facts can be produced, from* " *which alone the truth can appear; but if plans* " *of a battle are to be referred to, which can* " *give no juſt idea of it; if diſpoſitions of the* " *cavalry and infantry are ſuppoſed which ne-* " *ver exiſted; if orders for attacks and pur-* " *ſuits are quoted, which never were delivered;* " *and if diſobedience to thoſe imaginary orders* " *are aſſerted as a crime, what can an injured* " *officer, under ſuch circumſtances, have re-* " *courſe to, but claiming that juſtice which is* " *due to every* ENGLISHMAN, *of being heard* " *before he is condemned; the ſooner that hap-* " *pens, the happier I ſhall be, as I am conſci-* " *ous my innocence muſt appear, when real* " *facts are truly ſtated and fully proved.*" This addreſs his Lordſhip ſigns with his name at full length.

From this publication we became acquainted with the following facts.

Firſt, that his Lordſhip, by implication, was ſtigmatized unheard by Prince *Ferdinand*, although

although of the next rank to his own by birth, and commander in chief of the *Britiſh* forces, in an allied army (I think) entirely in *Britiſh* pay.

Secondly, that his Lordſhip's commiſſion was not ſuperſeded with diſgrace to him: but that he was permitted, at his own requeſt, to reſign his command, and come to *England*.

Thirdly, that immediately upon his arrival in town he wrote to requeſt a court-martial might be appointed for deciding upon his conduct.

Fourthly, that his military employments, which he might as well have been ſtripped of before, were not taken from him till he had demanded to be tried for the clearing up of his character, or the encountering of due puniſhment: ſo that, as his Lordſhip complains, he was cenſured unheard in *Germany*; ſo it may be ſaid, he has been puniſhed uncondemned in *Great Britain*.

Fifthly, that if there is any delay in the doing of juſtice, it is not owing to his Lordſhip, who is impatient for a trial, and will deem himſelf injured if it is refuſed him.

I ſhall only obſerve farther on this well judged publication, that as his Lordſhip has thereby given conviction to the public of his being ready and moſt ſtrenuouſly ſollicitous to ſubmit the merits of his cauſe to the juſtice of his country: ſo, till that open juſtice can impartially take place, the man deſerves contempt and abhorrence, be he whoſoever he may, that ſhall continue to be, or become his reviler to the world.

It behoves me now to take notice of another publication, which was made exactly at the time of Lord *George Sackville*'s addreſs, and maliciouſly calculated to deſtroy the effects of it.

This Pamphlet is called, *Lord* George Sackville's *vindication of himſelf, in a letter to Colonel* Fitzroy, *one of the aids de camp to Prince* Ferdinand: *with Colonel* Fitzroy's *anſwer; and the declaration of Captain* Smith, *one of the aids de camp to Lord* George. *Containing a full and particular account of every thing that paſſed, relative to Lord* George Sackville's *conduct and behaviour at the battle of* Thornhauſen, *on the firſt of Auguſt,* 1759.

But, previous to my remarks on this publication, I muſt obſerve, that it appeared to many men of candour and underſtanding to be ſpurious; chiefly, becauſe the letter ſigned with Lord *George*'s name, was too full of inaccuracies, they conceived, to be the production of his pen: and in this opinion they thought themſelves confirmed by ſome advertiſements that immediately appeared from his Lordſhip in the public papers, declaring he had given orders for proſecuting the printer of it. But the publiſher of it, next day, in defiance of rules of court and the privileges of parliament, was pleaſed to aſſert its authenticity, by ſaying Lord *George* had not denied it: and as his Lordſhip has not ſince diſowned the authenticity of the papers in that publication, I ſhall conſider them, in my examination, as genuine productions, without authority, however, for declaring them to be ſuch.

Lord *George Sackville*'s letter to Colonel *Fitzroy*, is very wrongly ſtiled a vindication of himſelf; it being at moſt apologetical; appearing to have been written in the confidence of Friendſhip, and obviouſly done in ſo much haſte as to evidence reliance in the writer, that it never would be applied to the

uſe

uſe we have ſeen it put to: however, let us proceed to an examination of its contents.

In the firſt place, his Lordſhip complains of Prince *Ferdinand*'s having proceeded to judge, condemn, and cenſure him unheard: and adds, that he muſt have formed his opinion on the reports of others.

Secondly, If any body had a right to ſay that he heſitated in obeying orders, it was him (Colonel *Fitzroy.)*

Thirdly, That he was at the Poſt he had been ordered to, when Colonel *Fitzroy* brought him orders to advance with the *Britiſh* cavalry, who was almoſt inſtantly followed by Captain *Legonier* with orders for the whole cavalry to advance: That, being puzzled at receiving orders ſo different, he deſired to be conducted to the Prince for getting an explanation of thoſe orders. But, that no time might be loſt, he ſent Captain *Smith*, one of his own Aids de Camp, to bring on the *Britiſh* Cavalry, which he reckoned he ſhould rejoin by the time they would be forming after their paſſing of a wood, which was before them.

Fourthly, That if this proceeding of his Lordſhip's was wrong, the ſervice could not ſuffer, as no delay was occaſioned by it that proved prejudicial.

Fifthly, That the Prince then ordered him to leave ſome ſquadrons upon the right, which he did, and then to advance the reſt to ſupport the infantry. This was done as faſt as he judged it right for cavalry to march in a line. That he once halted by Lord *Granby* to compleat his forming the whole. That upon Lord *Granby*'s advancing the left before the right, he again ſent to him to ſtop; who ſaid as the Prince ordered them to march, he thought that they ſhould move forward. His Lordſhip then let him proceed at the rate he liked, and kept up his right with him as regularly as he could, till they got to the rear of their infantry and the Batteries, where they both halted together.

Sixthly, That they continued in that ſtation, till orders were brought them to extend in one line towards the *Moraſs*, which was accordingly executed.

Seventhly,

Seventhly, That they did not find the enemy's cavalry to charge, as they expected to do: and that they continued in the ſtation they were commanded to till the battle was declared to be gained, and they were ordered to diſmount their men.

Eighthly, His Lordſhip ſays, that he was ſurprized to hear the Prince was diſſatisfied that the cavalry did not ſooner move up to the infantry; and adds, that had he known the ground, he could not have executed the orders ten minutes ſooner than he did: whereas, if the Prince intended they ſhould have got before the infantry and artillery, they were above an hour too late: but that he could not think his Highneſs had any ſuch meaning, as all his orders ran to ſuſtain the infantry: and that both Lord *Granby* and himſelf underſtood they were at their Poſts, by their halting when they got to the rear of their foot.

Ninthly, His Lordſhip ſays, he hopes he had impartially ſtated the part of thoſe tranſactions that had come within the knowledge of the Colonel; and, if he had, begs he would declare it, ſo as he might make uſe of it in his abſence: "*for*, adds he, *it is*

"*impoſſible*

" *impoſſible to ſit ſilent under ſuch reproach,*
" *when I am conſcious of having done the beſt*
" *in my Power.*"

Laſtly, He begs, for GOD's ſake, he would let him ſee him before he ſet out for *England*.

This is the entire ſubſtance of the letter, which I have divided into ſeperate articles, in order that I might with more method and perſpicuity make obſervations upon the whole.

There needs little to be ſaid to the firſt article, as I have already cenſured the practice of condemning unheared: ſo I ſhall only add here, that in this inſtance I think it muſt appear peculiarly blameable, becauſe my comments on the following articles muſt ſhew it to have been unmerited.

To the ſecond article I have to ſay, that the principal knowledge of heſitation muſt reſt with Colonel *Fitzroy*, and what he has to ſay thereon we ſhall ſee preſently by his own letter.

With regard to the fourth article, I muſt obſerve, that his Lordſhip was at the poſt he

he had been commanded to, when Colonel *Fitzroy* came up to him with freſh orders to advance with the *Britiſh* cavalry, and almoſt at the ſame inſtant of time Captain *Legonier* arrived with orders for him to advance with the whole cavalry. This occaſioned a perplexity: it well might do it: and Lord *George* apprehended Colonel *Fitzroy* might have made a miſtake in delivering the orders he had been charged with. He therefore deſired to be conducted to the Prince for the aſcertaining of his duty; which he might do without ill conſequences happening from it, as the order was only to advance and ſuſtain the foot, and not to enter immediately upon action, by charging the enemy. But at all events, that no delay of ſervice might happen, he ordered Captain Smith to bring on the *Britiſh* cavalry; judging that he could rejoin them, as he did, in time for any duty. What then was the prejudice ſuffered by this proceeding? and where the abſurdity of it in a commander of his Lordſhip's rank? Had he heſitated to charge the enemy, when commanded immediately to do it, that would have been diſobedience, which was here hardly delay: and a delay not likely to be, nor was, of any ill conſequence.

The

The fourth article conſiſts of an apology of his Lordſhips, for what he ſays might be an error; but as no evil could have been foreſeen from it, it ought not to be deemed a guilt. If he had but a doubt in his mind that was ſo eaſily to be cleared up, it could not be blameable in him to deſire to be made certain, when that was to be done without hurt to the ſervice. This he thought he could do: this it appears he did do: and, after all, it ſeems, that he did afterwards receive a corrected order from the Prince; that is, an order which the Prince himſelf corrected: for I mean not to call in queſtion the punctuality of delivery of that which Colonel *Fitzroy* was charged with.

Under the fifth article it appears, that when Lord *George* had received his freſh order, he rejoined his troops that were advancing, and immediately carried it into execution. That he halted once to form the line, and ſent to Lord *Granby* to ſtop with the left a ſecond time, that he might be able to keep regularly up with him with his right; but on finding that he was for puſhing forward with extraordinary expedition, he would not reſtrain him, as he might have done, and therefore endeavoured to keep pace with him

in

in the beſt manner he could: and in ſuch manner they proceeded till they came to their deſtined poſt. Here I am well aware reſolute prejudice may ſuggeſt, that Lord *George* does not appear to have been ſo eager as Lord *Granby* for getting into their ſtation. But it is a military point, that only military ſkill can decide upon, how far it is prudent to hazard the breaking of order in a movement. We all muſt remember what once happened, from an over-balance of courage to prudence, in *Scotland*. I mean not however to inſinuate the leaſt reflection on Lord *Granby*: for I can eaſily ſuppoſe they might neither of them be in the wrong. And it is to Lord *George*'s honour, who was the ſuperior in command, that he appeared ſo ready to comply with Lord *Granby*'s inclination, though in a matter that ſeems to be no way very important.

From the ſixth article it is ſeen, that they were inactive in their ſtation, and obeyed ſubſequent orders for extending their line towards the moraſs: ſo that the duty they were commanded to was entirely precautionary.

The ſeventh article declares, they never found any enemy's cavaly to charge: and that they were kept in their inactive ſtation

till the battle was declared to be gained, and they received orders from the Prince for the diſmounting of their men. So that they never came to action, becauſe the foot they were appointed to ſupport were never broken, if ever engaged by the enemy: therefore they had never any opportunity to engage in the action, nor were they ordered to purſue. Where was the propriety then of the Prince's ſaying, that if Lord *Granby* had commanded the horſe of the right wing, the victory would have been more compleat and more brilliant? ſince in the ſtation to which Lord *George* was ordered, there was nothing that could be done, unleſs they had been ordered to purſue, which it appears they never were. And here let me remind my readers to reflect how much the publication of theſe letters were calculated to prejudice Lord *George* in public opinion (as the handing of them about in manuſcript had before been deſigned to do:) as in the title page of the book they are expreſsly ſaid to contain, *a full and particular account of every thing that paſſed, relative to Lord* George Sackville's *conduct and behaviour at the battle of* Thornhauſen. O IMPOTENCE OF MALICE! O INIQUITY OF PREPOSSESSION! O ABSURDITY OF CREDULITY! for, harmleſs as candour muſt pronounce them, there have been men ſo weak,

weak, or ſo wicked, as to ſay, they conſidered this letter of Lord *George*'s as a ſelf-condemnation, which indeed by its generous and noble ſpirited publiſhers there is no doubt to be entertained of its being expected to prove.

By the eighth article we ſee, that his Lordſhip was ſurprized (and it would have been no wonder if he had been confounded too) at the unprecedented ill treatment of encountring an implied cenſure ſo unmerited and ſevere. He ſays, had he known the ground, he could not have executed the orders ten minutes ſooner than he did: that if the Prince intended any other ſervice than what he had performed, his orders were ſent too late by an hour, and he thinks it impoſſible any other could be intended, becauſe all his orders ran to ſuſtain the infantry: and both Lord *Granby* and himſelf conſidered themſelves to be in their ſtation when they had got to the rear of the foot. If this was the poſt they were ordered to, and they did there all that was to be done, (which indeed was nothing, becauſe there was nothing to do) what reaſon was there for giving ſuch thanks to Lord *Granby*, as implied a cenſure on Lord *George?* Did either do more than the other? Was the latter ordered to engage,

and did he refuſe to comply? Was he commanded to purſue, and did he object to the ſervice? Was he guilty of any material delay, from a perplexity that aroſe from jarring orders, ſo as to have occaſioned the diſcomfit of the infantry he was order'd to ſuſtain? What were the evils ſuffered from his ſhort heſitation? Or what would have been done more had he not heſitated at all? In fine, there appears not to have been the leaſt grounds for ſuppoſing either treachery, or cowardice, or ignorance or diſobedience: there happened indeed a trifling perplexity, but it produced no ill conſequence whatſoever; and therefore juſtice as well as generoſity ſhould not have ſuffered ſuch miſchiefs to have ariſen from it as have done.

In the ninth article, his Lordſhip refers himſelf, in the character of a friend, to the candour of Colonel *Fitzroy* for the truth of the caſe he ſtates, as far at leaſt as related to what came within the ſcope of the Colonel's knowledge; and requeſts of him, if he finds his narration to be right, that he would make a declaration that he might avail himſelf of in his abſence, for that it was impoſſible for him to ſit ſilent under a reproach that he deſerved not. The Colonel's candour, generoſity and humanity, as well as friendſhip, on

this occaſion will appear from his anſwer to the letter.

The laſt article, I am to obſerve, is of a petitionary nature: a requeſt to colonel *Fitzroy*, that for GOD's ſake he would let him ſee him before he ſet out for *England*: which has been repreſented by malevolence as a humiliation that was mean. Now, when Lord *George Sackville* found himſelf unexpectedly marked out for diſgrace; to whom, I muſt aſk, could he ſo fitly apply as to a party in the cauſe, for a candid declaration of the truth of the matter? And this very party being appointed to bring over the news of the victory, was it not incumbent on him to be ſollicitous for his candid report of what his character depended on in the country he was ſerving? What degree of friendſhip there might have been between them I pretend not to know: nor has it yet come to the public knowledge, whether either of the requeſts made by Lord *George*, was complied with or not: but if we may be allowed to judge from the Colonel's anſwer to Lord *George*'s letter, we muſt ſuppoſe they neither of them were: and, therefore, that Lord *George* deceived himſelf in the reliance he placed on that friendſhip. Nor do I preſume to judge how far honour was concerned in the tender

treatment

treatment of ſuch a confidence. However I think no cenſure can fall on Lord *George* for repoſing it: nor can any harm happen to him for any uſe that has been made of it. There is a judge of points of honour in every man's own boſom: and of what conſcience is our fair abſolver the world ought to approve: however, as men think differently, they will accordingly act in matters of great importance to themſelves as well as to others. But I muſt take the liberty here to obſerve, that I can ſee no cauſe for thoſe letters becoming ſo ſoon public, becauſe it was time enough for a man to vindicate himſelf when he diſcovered that he had been by any one accuſed.

On Colonel *Fitzroy*'s letter I ſhall make but few remarks; the firſt of which is, that he and Lord *George* do not agree in one point: for his Lordſhip ſays that Captain *Legonier* came to him immediately after the Colonel; and the Colonel, that on his arrival, he found the Captain with his Lordſhip. Which is in the right muſt remain to be decided: however, I think it ſeems pretty apparent that they arrived near together: but Captain *Smith*'s declaration is on the Colonel's ſide of the queſtion.

It muſt be acknowledged the Colonel appears to have been a diligent Aid-de-camp, becauſe he owns he delivered his meſſage before he had recovered breath enough to enable him to make himſelf be underſtood: but as ſoon as he could acquire an articulate utterance, he not only delivered his orders, but added to them an heroic admonition; which, conſidering the difference in martial ſtation betwixt him and the perſon whom it was addreſſed to, may be conſidered, I think, to have been much more ſpirited than diſcreet.

He begins his next paragraph with ſaying, "you YET *expreſſed your ſurprize at the or-*" *der*," not reflecting that he had not before mentioned the encountering of any ſurprize at all. One would imagine the Colonel to have been as haſty a writer as he was a ſpeaker; and that, as he talked without breath, ſo, he wrote without recollection.

It appears by the Colonel's letter, that Lord *George* was ſo poſted as to be at a loſs how to march with his cavalry, and in want of a conductor. The Colonel himſelf undertook to be his guide, as indeed by Captain *Smith*'s declaration it appears he was ordered

dered to be: But Lord *George* continuing to hesitate about the two orders he had received, desired, at length, that he might himself be conducted to Prince *Ferdinand*; who, it seems, they were so fortunate as very speedily to meet. *During this time*, says the Colonel, "*I did not see the cavalry advance.*" But what time, I must ask, was this? All that was taken up in their finding out the Prince? We shall see, by Captain *Smith*'s declaration presently, that could not have been the case. He then immediately subjoins, "*Captain* Smith, *one of your Aids-de-camp, once or twice made me repeat the orders I had delivered to your Lordship; and I hope he will do me the justice to say they were* CLEAR *and* EXACT. Clear he may say they were, but as for their exactness, that he could say nothing to, nor any body else but the Prince who gave them. He then adds, "*He went up to you whilst you were going to find the Duke, as I imagine, being sensible of the* CLEARNESS *of my orders, and the necessity of their being immediately obeyed. I heard your Lordship give him some orders,—what they were I cannot say,—but he immediately rode back towards the cavalry.*" It is impossible to avoid observing here what a confusion of time and place there is in this narration: nor indeed to conceive why it was made, as Lord *George* had wrote to the Colonel

Colonel about his own juſtification only, without putting, in any point, the conduct of the Colonel in need of one. In ſhort there is no anſwer in it to any one article that the letter contained which was wrote to him: and ſo far was he from contributing his friendſhip towards the juſtification of Lord *George*, that he at once became in effect his accuſer in behalf of himſelf, whoſe acquittal of his duty there was no body arraigning.

He proceeds with ſaying, " *upon my joining the Duke, I repeated to him the orders I had delivered to you, and appealing to his Serene Highneſs to know whether they were the ſame he had honoured me with, I had the ſatisfaction to hear him declare they were very* EXACT. *His Serene Highneſs immediately aſked, where the cavalry was; and upon my making anſwer, that Lord George did not underſtand the order, but was coming to ſpeak to his Serene Highneſs, he expreſſed his ſurprize ſtrongly.*"

I muſt here obſerve, that if this is a genuine letter of Colonel *Fitzroy*'s, and of courſe his ſtate of the caſe, if he was EXACT in delivering the Prince's order, he was not ſo in reporting Lord *George*'s doubt; becauſe

he ſays himſelf, that he told the Prince Lord *George* did not underſtand the order. Now that was not the caſe. Lord *George*'s doubt aroſe from the difference of the two orders that he received at the ſame time: one to advance with the whole cavalry, and the other to advance with the Britiſh only. But I muſt obſerve, there is likewiſe a diſagreement in the three accounts of this matter. Colonel *Fitzroy* ſays, at the beginning of his letter, the Prince ſent Captain *Legonier* and himſelf with orders for the Britiſh cavalry to advance. Lord *George Sackville* ſays, Captain *Legonier* brought him orders to advance with the whole cavalry: and Captain *Smith* declares, that he heard Lord *George Sackville* ſay, on his receiving Colonel *Fitzroy*'s orders, that, as they differed from thoſe he had juſt before received by Captain *Legonier*, he would ſpeak to the Prince himſelf, and accordingly put his horſe in a gallop to go to him. Now Colonel *Fitzroy* himſelf ſays, that he and Captain *Legonier* were both with Lord *George* together, and therefore we are to ſuppoſe they both heard the doubt which he openly ſtarted upon their bringing him different orders almoſt exactly at the ſame time: and if the doubt aroſe from any miſtake of his Lordſhip's, the parties whoſe meſſages occaſioned it would undoubtedly have

have ſet him right. In ſhort, if Lord *George* did not miſtake Colonel *Fitzroy*, Colonel *Fitzroy* evidently miſtook Lord *George*, and, by his own account of the matter, made a wrong report to Prince *Ferdinand*. And, in the ſame manner, as he miſtook Lord *George*'s meaning in converſation, ſo did he alſo in writing. For in the firſt caſe, Lord *George* doubted about the claſhing of different orders, and the Colonel apprehended he did not underſtand thoſe which himſelf carried. And in the ſecond caſe, Lord *George* wrote to excuſe or vindicate his own conduct, and the Colonel ſeems to underſtand it as an attack of his own abilities or veracity, and thereupon writes an anſwer to the letter entirely, and unneceſſarily foreign to the purpoſe of it. I cannot help remarking here, that there appears to have been ſome young work in this affair, which may have been miſchievous: an extraordinary zeal to prove that to have been right which was never accuſed of being wrong, may have occaſioned miſtakes that were the cauſers of a giddy report that occaſioned a raſh cenſure, which now power and policy would at all events ſupport: from all of which put together will perhaps, at laſt, be diſcovered the only clue to guide our judgments to the diſcovery of

truth through mazes of error and myſteries of accuſation.

On Captain *Smith*'s declaration there requires very few remarks, though I ſhould have been glad the public were acquainted how it came to be made at *Minden*; whether voluntarily, or by command, and at whoſe inſtigation.

It however expreſſes, that Lord *George* loſt no time in getting an explanation of orders, nor the troops any of conſequence in getting to their poſt. It ſeems Lord *George*, Colonel *Fitzroy* and the Captain all rode together towards the Prince; and that moſt of the converſation that they had with one another was while they were galloping about ſix hundred yards: for Captain *Smith* expreſsly declares, that, upon a review of the ground, he had not above that diſtance to gallop back to General *Moſtyn*, with Lord *George*'s directions to order the Britiſh cavalry to advance as faſt as they could. His declaration therefore ſeems to inſinuate neither cowardice or diſobedience: but appears to have been made by conſtraint and to require explanations; which we muſt wiſh to hear given before the Court-martial that has been required.

This

This I think to be a fair comment on the publications that have been made either with avowed or aſſerted authenticity: and in a candid diſquiſition there are no others to be regarded.

From the whole then it appears, that there were contradictory orders received: that they were only to advance to the ſupport of part of the foot: that Lord *George* conſidered no material time could be loſt by his ſpeaking to the Prince; that no material time was loſt by his doing of it, and that he then received other orders, which he punctually obeyed: that the foot he was appointed to ſupport, if engaged at all, were never broken; conſequently he did not engage at all, becauſe there was no opportunity offered him for doing it: that there never was any order ſent him either to charge or to purſue; and that he was actually at his poſt when the battle was declared gained, and he was ordered to diſmount his men: that, therefore, all the duty he was commanded to be actually performed: that no evil did reſult from the heſitation he made, and, conſequently, that no other commander of that cavalry could have contributed towards the making of the victory more compleat

and

and more brilliant: ſo that the charge againſt Lord *George* was without ſufficient foundation, and the cenſure he received muſt have been both unmerited and injurious. All this, I ſay, appears from the publications I have examined: their authenticity is aſſerted, and, if really with truth, they are all that we have yet heard authenticated of the matter: ſo that upon the face of public evidence, as it hitherto ſtands, Lord *George Sackville* muſt be pronounced, by the voice of candour, an innocent ſufferer, and, conſequently, an injured man.

Upon other publications that have been made there is no judgment to be founded; ſome of them may have been produced by enmity, others by friendſhip; and the greater part of them by bad induſtry, in the proſecution of trade. But it becomes me to remark, that indiſcretion in theſe points is either way inexcuſable, as no good can reſult therefrom, and much that is evil may. His Lordſhip has publicly diſcountenanced interpoſitions on the friendly part: and it ſurely highly behoves the public to do the ſame by thoſe of enmity: for they are controverſies, from their natures, as fruitleſs as they are endleſs: and the truth muſt be ſifted out by other means than anonymous publications.

But

But, I think, candour and humanity ſhould treat with deteſtation the dirty dealers in calumny, in ſcandal, and in falſehood. Is it a practice becoming of Chriſtians, of ſcholars, or of men, to be the broachers of defamation, or the adopters, the ſpreaders or the countenancers of it? Againſt malice and ſlander what character can be ſafe? And let any man, who is the whiſperer, proclaimer, or inſinuator of infamous reports, that he wants every means to prove, and any good authority to give credit to, but conſider, what he himſelf would think of ſuch a treatment if he encountered it from others: and then bluſh at his conduct, and forbear a practice that is ſo baſe.

To load fallen men with opprobrium is cruelty even towards the guilty, when they are ſuffering from juſtice the rewards of their demerits. What then ſhould imputed infamy be conſidered, which may be falſe, againſt the innocent: and foreign even to the matter of which they may happen to be accuſed? Is it not beſpeaking of prejudice? exciting an indignation, that will become the deſerter of reaſon, and an operator by paſſion? Should not honour oppoſe a proceeding ſo extremely unfair? And does not the very

very practice of our courts of juſtice, in all caſes, avow it to be ſuch? Let us learn then, to regulate our practice by the higheſt and beſt examples, and make our private juſtice of a piece with that of our public: ſo ſhall our conduct be rendered irreproachable by others and ourſelves, from being conformable to right reaſon and the laws of the land.

On points that are fairly within the ſcope of the people's comprehenſion, I readily acknowledge that their opinions are generally right. But thoſe opinions to prove right, ſhould be the reſult of cool reaſon: whereas paſſion operates from prejudice, and becomes as partial as it is violent; prone to believe unconvinced, and to act with blind outrage.

How wild, on this occaſion, have been the opinions that we have been peſtered with from impertinence, and founded on reports in utter want of authenticity! the object of their indignation ſome would have had tried by foreigners abroad, to the diſhonour of our nation and the violation of its conſtitution. Others have been for denying him the right of a trial for his juſtification at home, and thereby making a precedent the moſt fatal that could be eſtabliſhed; that of

inflicting puniſhments on men uncondemned: for the loſs of reputation is on a par with the loſs of fortune, or of life; nay, ſuperior to both in the opinion of a man of true honour; and, therefore, is no more to be arbitrarily taken from him, unconvicted, than either of the others. Is zeal of this temperament, then any other than phrenzy? A proſecution of revenge that would hazard our very ſafety, and the ſafety of our whole poſterities? We ſhould remember it is our right, from the great charter of our privileges, for every man, even the meaneſt, to be tried by his Peers, to the conviction of his guilt, or demonſtration of his innocence: and that it is a maxim in the law, founded on the principles of humanity, to ſuppoſe every man innocent till the offence he is accuſed of has been legally proved.

What then is public clamour, when built upon ſurmiſe, or falſe accuſations, facts unaſcertained, or erroneous opinions? Has there been a nation upon earth, whoſe hiſtory we are acquainted with, that has not produced examples of injuſtice from it, of outrage, and of cruelty? Have not the faireſt of characters been ſullied by it? And the beſt of men borne down by it to ruin and to death? And that too even by the perverſion of ju-

ſtice, in what was wrongly called a legal adminiſtration of it? The baniſhment of *Ariſtides*, the execution of *Socrates*, nay, the condemnation of our bleſſed SAVIOUR, againſt the remonſtrances of his very judge, are ſure inſtances that are ſtriking of the lamentable effects of public clamour, kindled by artifice and operating with prejudice. From the high examples I have given, ſhall I deſcend to the producing of one of our own age and nation; and aſk of the violent, now their fury has ſubſided, when future ages, in this land, ſhall read the ſentence that was paſt on Admiral *Byng* by his judges, and their letter that accompanied it to the Lords of the *Admiralty*, if they think their wonder muſt not prove great at the execution that followed? Even as great as that which has already been expreſſed at it by the diſpaſſionately judging people of every other country in *Europe*?

Nor can I here forbear to remark on a current conſolotary obſervation, in extenuation of that ſeverity, now when party heat has ſubſided, and particulars begin to feel ſome compunction for their ill-exerted fury; which is, *that it has been the producer of good effects in the navy*: and this is talked of with ſatisfaction even by lawyers and clergymen. But can any of them ſay it is conformable to the doctrine

doctrine of the goſpel or our ſtatutes, that evil ſhould be done in order for good to come of it? Or will politicians pretend to tell us, that where diſcipline becomes weakened, it is not from corruptions in government? Which has always a power to prevent it by mild juſtice, or by mild juſtice to reſtore it. Or would any of thoſe men, who are ſo ready to be the devoters of the lives of others with infamy, be willing their own ſhould be ſo devoted for public welfare? A great author has obſerved, that nothing is ſo eaſy to bear as other men's misfortunes; and we ſee, in the matter now treated of, that there are thoſe who can comfort themſelves in the ſufferings too of others, even to death by great rigour, provided they can themſelves participate in any benefits derived from them. For my part, I wiſh every Man had the fair rewards of his merits or demerits: but I would have the laws executed with due piety and becoming moderation; and, if poſſible, never perverted to the ſcreening of the guilty or the puniſhing of the innocent: and in every execution of them the old maxim ſhould be remembered, which is ſo adapted to our conſtitution, that the rigour of juſtice is injuſtice.

But, to reſume my ſubject, let me obſerve of our nation, that we are apt to value ourſelves highly on our principles of humanity. I do not deny that humanity is a virtue that in many points diſtinguiſhes us: and I am ſorry to obſerve there are others in which we are as remarkable for the want of it: perhaps no one in which we are more ſo than in our tendency to believe the worſt that is ſaid of one another. This is acknowledged to be the vice of low minds: but, if the high cannot be infected with it, it is lamentable to conſider, from daily obſervation, how over-proportionate a part the low-minded are of every order of people among us; inſomuch that, as an allay to our real pretentions to humanity, we may truly be ſaid to have a ſuperior defection in this point to any other people I have heard of in the world.

So much for the talk of the town, that ſource of all clamour; which, by proceeding to violence, is the cauſe of much miſchief.

I mean not, by what I have ſaid, to be the extenuator of guilt, or the palliator of error: let either be fairly proved, and a proportionate

portionate puniſhment inflicted on the offender. It is great, it is noble, to be ſacrificers to juſtice: but baſe and inhuman to become butcherers from revenge.

It is painful to good minds to obſerve the inveteracies of ignorance, and to contemplate the diſpoſitions of men to do injuries. In the caſe of a ſuppoſed, not proved, wrong, done to the community by an individual, what is the part that a good citizen has to act, eſpecially with reſpect to one eminent for birth, ſtation and abilities? ſhould it be to excite paſſion and prejudice againſt him? or rather, ſhould it not be to wiſh, and, if in his power, to contribute means towards the having of him ſolemnly brought forth to the bar of awful juſtice: and there, calmly attentive to the full ſifting of the matter, be ready to aſſent to the puniſhment of his guilt, or heartily to rejoice at the manifeſtation of his innocence.

This is the part becoming every man to act: it is what is equally preſcribed by religion, by law, and by conſcience: the dealing by others as we would have them deal by us.

From

From this great rule of honour, then, let us reſolve not to depart: let us not ſuffer ourſelves to be guided by partiality; nor, if poſſible, to ſuffer it to operate in others: let us not be prejudiced in favour of *Germans* to the injury of *Engliſhmen*.

Lord *George Sackville*'s rank was very high in the army; an army paid by *Great-Britain* to fight in a *German* cauſe. His abilities are allowed to be extremely great: his ſtake in conduct very important: let us then, for our own ſakes as well as his, be jealous of ſmothered proceedings. He ſays, he hopes for, and is promiſed a trial: the very words ſhould create feelings in us: accuſations ought to be proved, and even diſgraces ſhould be juſtified: if he fairly has forfeited his employments, in GOD's name let him looſe them: if he has ſullied his honour, let the ſtain be made indelible: if he has merited to die, let his life be taken from him: but if he is innocent of the charge, let him be honourably cleared: be reſtored to his family, be reſtored to his country.

Theſe are the genuine ſentiments of an impartial and honeſt *Engliſhman:* of a man unprejudiced from favour, uninfluenced by fear: of a man who is no other than a champion for the rights of *Engliſhmen*, and an advocate for the unhappy againſt prejudice and prepoſſeſſion.

Let *Engliſhmen* be what they ought, the aſſerters of juſtice. Let them intereſt themſelves, as they ſhould do, for the ſeeing of things that concern them fairly developed of myſtery: and if clamour they muſt, let them clamour for legal conviction. Who knows how deep the root of this diſgrace may be buried in contrivance: even ſtateſmen may be influenced, and Heroes are but men; men ſubject to their paſſions, their prejudices, and their frailties.

The great Duke of *Marlborough* was, in his time, a warrior perhaps as great as any now in being: yet his mind was not great enough to be deſtitute of partiality. He gave the honour of a victory to one general, and the parliament thanked another for atchieving it. That frailty inverted may, on a later occaſion, have lifted one general to honour and ſunk another to diſgrace, who both

both may have been equally deſerving companions in the ſame ſervice of the day.

Nothing remains for me to ſay, but that theſe ſentiments are candid: the genuine dictates of a ſoul that is unbiaſſed. I aſk no favour, but juſtice for Lord *George Sackville*, or my country: I aſk for legal proofs of delinquency, and the puniſhments that are due to them: I aſk for the rights of a *Briton*, in the trial of an accuſed ſoldier: requeſt his chaſtiſements may be made legal, or that his innocence may be manifeſted.

I have no acquaintance with his Lordſhip, nor with any of his family: know none that have connections with them; nor have had any influencer to this undertaking but a heart warm in the cauſe of truth, and a conſcience that has never been corrupted. In the cauſe of my country, I have taken up the pen; and have honourably exerciſed it upon principle, and with candour: without hope of favour, or apprehenſion of diſpleaſure.

FINIS.

289229